

Shelby Co. ATC Hosts Machine Tool Technology Competition

Several ATC machine tool technology students got a chance to show off their skills during the first Shelby Co. Invitational Machine Tool Technology Competition held Dec. 2, 2003. Mike Clark, Shelby Co. ATC machine tool technology instructor, coordinated the competition.

“I felt like we needed something different and challenging for our students to work toward while providing some type of spirited environment to ready them for SkillsUSA-VICA regional competitions. As a matter of fact, we ran this event just like the state VICA competition. We had our students compete in class to get a chance to participate, with the top two getting the honor,” he said.



Jeremy Inman of Marion Co. ATC concentrates using the metal lathe.

Clark came up with the idea during the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc. (NIMS) training session held at the Breckinridge Co. ATC last summer. NIMS is a nationally recognized industry accreditation and credentialing program. It has been selected as the industry certification for the Department for Technical Education's (DTE) machine tool technology and metal fabrication programs.

Instructors from Green Co., Marion Co. and Harrison Co. ATCs were invited to bring two students each to compete. Students participating in the event included Daniel Wolfe and Eric Rupe, Green Co.; Josh Loaring and Chris Daniels, Shelby Co. (Jonathan Cook served as an alternate); Brian Huff and Corey Sears, Harrison Co.; Andrew Hagan and Jeremy Inman, Marion Co.

“...we have some of the best and brightest students anywhere enrolled in our ATCs all over the state.”

DTE Commissioner Emil Jezik



Competitors created two like pieces from drawings presented to them when they arrived. While one group worked on metal lathes, the other worked at milling machines. Students were allowed an hour to complete the first task and then each switched to the other machine to make the second piece.

Bob Johnson, evening machine tool technology instructor at the Shelby Co. KCTCS campus, served as the judge for the competition.



Chris Daniels of Shelby Co. ATC works carefully during the competition.

"I think a competition like this creates enthusiasm among the students as well as gives them confidence in what they are doing," he said. "Once a student sees that he or she can compete against students from other schools, they gain a sense of accomplishment and do things they never dreamed of doing. This will make them better at what they do."

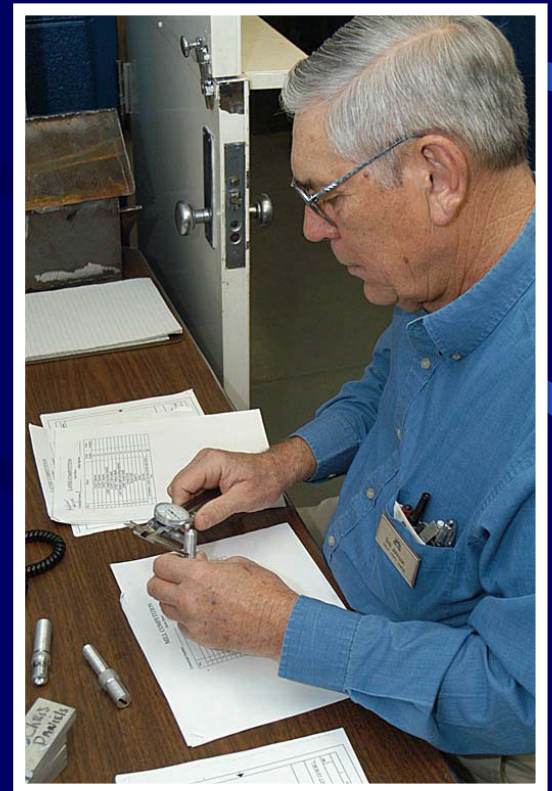
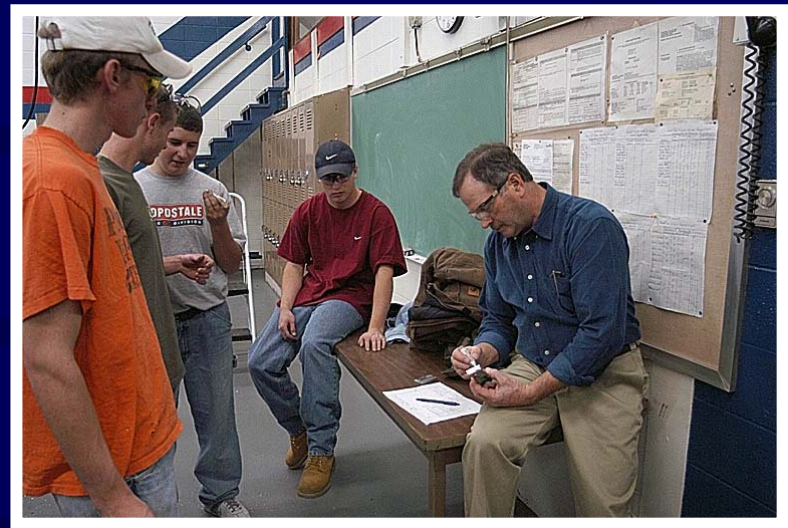
"This event gives our students the chance to get out and meet other students doing the same thing and it also gets them familiar with other types of machinery - something they will face in the workforce, post secondary education and other similar competitions," said Green Co. Machine Tool Technology Instructor Barry Porter.

Green Co. Senior Daniel Wolfe, the winner of the competition, has been in his machine tool technology class for the past three years and plans to attend aerospace engineering school after graduation.

“I think the more I learn in this class, the better engineer I’ll be,” said Daniel. “A competition like this is always difficult because of the time limit. It’s a little un-nerving, but it is good practice for the regional and state SkillsUSA-VICA competitions.”

Shelby Co. ATC Principal Debbie Anderson and DTE Commissioner Emil Jezik were both in attendance at the competition. Commissioner Jezik presented metals to the top three participants after the judging had been completed.

“All of these students are winners just by being here,” said Jezik. “A competition like this will not only give these young people confidence in what they’re doing, it also showcases their talents. I think the next step is to bring in business and industry and post secondary



Pictured at top: Instructor Mike Clark gathers finished pieces while Bob Johnson, bottom, checks each piece for accuracy.

representatives to see what we've known for quite some time - we have some of the best and brightest students anywhere enrolled in our ATCs all over the state."

"This competition will give these students a way to gauge their abilities against other students from other programs," said Ms. Anderson. "We can tell them how well they are doing, but it's another thing for them to actually see that they can compete outside the confines of their classroom."



DTE Commissioner Emil Jezik watches the winning form of Green Co. ATC's Daniel Wolfe.



Pictured above (left to right) with DTE Commissioner Emil Jezik on right in each are: Green Co. ATC Instructor Barry Porter and first place winner Daniel Wolfe; center: Shelby Co. ATC Instructor Mike Clark and second place finisher Josh Loaring; and bottom: Marion Co. ATC Instructor Chris Sublet and third place finisher Jeremy Inman.

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